

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration to a subject, said composition comprising:
 - a) a core tablet comprising a drug and a freely erodible filler, wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and lactulose, wherein said core tablet erodes approximately 40% to approximately 90% in the digestive tract of said subject, wherein said core tablet does not contain a hydrogel-forming polymer;
 - b) an outer layer, said outer layer is made from a hydrogel-forming polymer substance and a hydrophilic base, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer substance is made from at least one type of polyethylene oxide, and said hydrophilic base is polyethylene glycol; and
 - c) wherein the outer layer does not contain the drug.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein there is approximately 75 wt% or less of said drug, approximately 5 to approximately 80 wt% freely erodible filler, approximately 10 to approximately 95 wt% hydrogel-forming polymer substance, and approximately 5 to approximately 80 wt% hydrophilic base.
4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid and tartaric acid.

6. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein the freely erodible filler for a basic drug is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid and tartaric acid.

7. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein the freely erodible filler for an acidic or neutral drug is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, sucrose or lactulose.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogel-forming polymer substance is at least 1 type of polyethylene oxide and further contains red ferric oxide and/or yellow ferric oxide.

14. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein a drug is brought to be effectively released or absorbed in the lower digestive tract.

15. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein a drug is brought to be effective for chronopharmacotherapy.

16. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein a drug is metabolized by cytochrome P-450.

17. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein a drug has the effect of inhibiting metabolism by cytochrome P-450.

18. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 16, wherein the drug is metabolized by CYP3A4.

19. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 17, wherein the drug has the effect of inhibiting metabolism by CYP3A4.

20. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 1, wherein the drug is 4'-(2-methyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydroimidazo[4,5-d][1]benzazepin-6-yl)carbonyl]-2-phenylbenzalide or its salt.

21. (Currently amended) A method of timed-release of a drug, whereby the composition in-claim 1 is orally administered, said composition comprising:

a) a core tablet comprising a drug and a freely erodible filler, wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and lactulose, wherein said core tablet erodes approximately 40% to approximately 90% in the digestive tract of said subject, wherein said core tablet does not contain a hydrogel-forming polymer;

b) an outer layer, said outer layer is made from a hydrogel-forming polymer substance and a hydrophilic base, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer substance is made from at least one type of polyethylene oxide, and said hydrophilic base is polyethylene glycol; and

c) wherein the outer layer does not contain the drug, thereby time releasing the drug.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) In a hydrogel-forming compression-coated solid pharmaceutical preparation comprising: a core tablet containing drug and outer layer made from hydrogel-forming polymer substance and hydrophilic base, the improvement which comprises a timed-release compression-coated solid composition according to claim 1.

25. (Previously presented) A hydrogel-forming compression-coated solid pharmaceutical preparation comprising:

a core tablet containing drug and outer layer made from hydrogel-forming polymer substance and hydrophilic base, the improvement which comprises a timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration, said composition comprising:

(1) a drug and freely erodible filler wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and lactulose, are mixed with the core tablet, wherein said core tablet does not contain a hydrogel-forming polymer;

(2) the percentage erosion of the core tablet is approximately 40 to approximately 90%; and

(3) the outer layer does not contain the drug and wherein said outer layer is made from at least one type of polyethylene oxide, and polyethylene glycol.

26. (Original) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 25, wherein the drug is 4'-(2-methyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydroimidazo[4,5-d][1]benzazepin-6-yl)carbonyl]-2-phenylbenzanolide or its salt.

27. (Previously presented) A timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration, to a subject, said composition comprising:

a) a core tablet comprising a drug and a freely erodible filler, wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and lactulose, wherein said core tablet does not

contain a hydrogel-forming polymer, and wherein said core tablet erodes approximately 40% to approximately 90% in the digestive tract of said subject, wherein percentage erosion is determined by a method:

- i) a compression-coated tablet is moistened for 3 hours in water at 37° C;
- ii) the gelled part of the tablet is peeled off and the portion of the core tablet that has not eroded is removed;
- iii) the core tablet is allowed to dry overnight in a dryer at 40° C and the weight is determined;
- iv) the value obtained by subtracting dry weight from initial core tablet weight is multiplied by 100;
 - b) an outer layer, said outer layer is made from a hydrogel-forming polymer substance, and a hydrophilic base, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer substance is made from at least one type of polyethylene oxide, and said hydrophilic base is polyethylene glycol; and
 - c) wherein the outer layer does not contain the drug.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein interaction is reduced between the drug and a concomitantly used second drug, wherein both drugs employ the same routes for drug absorption.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the drug inhibits drug metabolism *in vivo* in humans of the second drug.

30. (New) A timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration to a subject, said composition comprising:

a) a core tablet comprising a drug and a freely erodable filler, wherein the freely erodable filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, polyethylene glycol, sucrose, and lactulose, wherein said core tablet erodes

approximately 40% to approximately 90% in the digestive tract of said subject, wherein said core tablet contains about 10% to about 50% w/w of a hydrogel-forming polymer;

b) an outer layer, said outer layer is made from a hydrogel-forming polymer substance and a hydrophilic base, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer substance is made from at least one type of polyethylene oxide, and said hydrophilic base is polyethylene glycol; and

c) wherein the outer layer does not contain the drug.

31. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein the freely erodible filler is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid and tartaric acid.

32. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein the freely erodible filler for a basic drug is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of malic acid, citric acid and tartaric acid.

33. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein the freely erodible filler for an acidic or neutral drug is 1 or 2 or more selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, sucrose or lactulose.

34. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogel-forming polymer substance is at least 1 type of polyethylene oxide and further contains red ferric oxide and/or yellow ferric oxide.

35. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein a drug is brought to be effectively released or absorbed in the lower digestive tract.

36. (New) The timed-release compression-coated solid composition for oral administration according to claim 30, wherein a drug is brought to be effective for chronopharmacotherapy.